United Nations

Daily Highlights

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FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ The Secretary-General calls on all parties to the conflict in southern Sudan to cease all hostilities immediately to help put an end to the suffering of the innocent civilian population.

+ A former Minister for Foreign Affairs of Tunisia, Mahmoud Mestiri, has been named leader of the special mission to Afghanistan, called for in operative paragraph 4(a) of General Assembly resolution 48/208.

+ The Secretary-General appoints Peter Hansen, of Denmark, as Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, effective 1 March.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today expressed his deep concern over the renewed fighting in southern Sudan. He called on all parties to the conflict to cease all hostilities immediately to help put an end to the suffering of the innocent civilian population.

According to the Spokesman for the Secretary-General, the military actions, combined with severe drought conditions, were exacerbating the suffering of tens of thousands of innocent victims in the conflict. It was estimated that at least 150,000 people had been displaced in the Nemule, Mundri and Maridi areas. The escalating conflict might result into widespread flows of refugees into neighbouring countries.

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The Secretary-General today appointed a former Minister for Foreign Affairs of Tunisia, Mahmoud Mestiri, to lead the special mission to Afghanistan called for by operative paragraph 4(a) of General Assembly resolution 48/208. The Personal Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan, S. Mousouris, would form part of the mission.

By operative paragraph 4(a) of resolution 48/208, the General Assembly requested the Secretary General "to dispatch as soon as possible a United Nations special mission to Afghanistan to canvass a broad spectrum of

(more)

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Afghanistan's leaders to solicit their views on how the United Nations can best assist Afghanistan in facilitating national rapprochement and reconstruction, and report to the Secretary-General their findings, conclusions and recommendations for appropriate action".

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Peter Hansen, of Denmark, was today named by the Secretart-General as the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, effective 1 March. Mr. Hansen has been the Executive Director of the Commission on Global Governance, Geneva, since 1992. Previously, he was Executive Director of the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations, from 1985 to 1992, and was Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning and Coordination, from 1978 to 1985. Since 1993, he has been the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee established to follow up the Washington Conference in support of the Middle East peace process.

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